

White Paper Report

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The Luis A. Ferré Foundation, Inc.- Museo de Arte de Ponce
Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections
White Paper

Purchase Storage Furniture to Preserve Collections

PF-50224-11

The support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, through its Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collection program, has vastly contributed to the long-term conservation, research and study of the three- dimensional (3-D) objects collection of Museo de Arte de Ponce. The implementation of the proposed project has had numerous positive outcomes, as it has strengthened the museum's work in the Humanities.

In 2010, Museo de Arte de Ponce presented its project to the National Endowment for the Humanities to acquire a high density, manual, mobile storage system to store its valuable collection of 1,259 3-D objects, due to the urgent need for more improved storage space. Previously, space within Museo de Arte de Ponce for object storage was small and inadequate. The 3-D collection was stored in a 280 sq ft area within the museum that lacked adequate air conditioning and fire suppression equipment, suffered from vibrations and was prone to dust buildup.

As of December 2012, the new storage system designed by Burroughs Corporation (Michigan, USA), housed within 2.5 times as much space, has enabled the museum to arrange objects adequately, safely and orderly so that those who need access can visit and interact with artworks on exhibit. The National Endowment for the Humanities, through its financial support, has granted the opportunity to the museum to mitigate 3-D objects from deterioration and extend their useful life to guarantee lifelong access for future generations, to provide museum visitors with an ever deeper understanding of the diversity and the universality of human artistic expression. Through the new storage system, the museum has ensured proper care and preservation of objects that pertain to this collection, giving the opportunity to the community, in

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a long- term basis, to rethink them in regards to their own lives, and taking into consideration social and historical aspects of Puerto Rico and beyond.

Major activities of this project comprised: 1) needs assessment; 2) project plan design; 3) space design; 4) quote estimates requests of storage equipment and rehousing supplies; 5) storage equipment vendor selection; 6) purchase of rehousing supplies; 7) objects moving out of original storage equipment; 8) space refurbishing; 9) new storage equipment installation; 10) objects move in new equipment; 11) inventory; 12) and project evaluation.

Among its many accomplishments, the 3-D objects collection was rehoused in a state of the art storage equipment that provides space optimization while the object can be arranged by materials and weights.

As a continuation of the project and as a long term impact, the museum will pursue an open storage system for the open storage located on the second floor of the museum. In addition, this grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities has greatly improved the dissemination and word of mouth about the museum to many organizations and donors. It has positioned the museum in great visibility, both for the dissemination of its work towards the submission and approval of many other grants, such as the Andrew Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.